

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:WLSWING:LA
APPROVED BY AF/WCHARROP
AF/C:LDJUNIOR (SUBS)
EUR/NE:WNEWLIN (SUBS)
AF:LWALKER (SUBS)
-----019234 292158Z /75

O P 292141Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192131

OUAGADOUGOU AND BAMAKO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, BE, PINT, ECON

SUBJECT: SIMONET VISIT TO ZAIRE

1. BELGIAN DCM DE LA PARRE-D'ERQUELINNES, ACCOMPANIED BY
COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR EMILE MASSA, CALLED ON AF DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LANNON WALKER BY PREARRANGEMENT ON
JULY 28, HAVING EARLIER NOTIFIED THE DEPARTMENT THAT
FOREIGN MINISTER HENRI SIMONET WOULD VISIT ZAIRE JULY 31-
AUGUST 1 AND WISHED TO HAVE ANY US VIEWPOINTS OR CONCERNS
WE WISHED TO SHARE WITH HIM IN REGARD TO ZAIRE.

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2. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL POINTS COVERED IN
CONVERSATION WITH DE LA PARRE-D'ERQUELINNES. DEPARTMENT
SUGGESTS THAT THESE BE GIVEN TO THE GOB AS A NON-PAPER
IN FOLLOW-UP TO THIS CONVERSATION.

3. ZAIRE/ANGOLA RECONCILIATION.

A) THE RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN ANGOLAN/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS IS PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICA SINCE THE JUNE MEETINGS IN PARIS AND BRUSSELS.

DEMARCHES TO M'OBUTU WAS THE RECOMMENDATION THAT HE UNDERTAKE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO AMELIORATE HIS RELATIONS WITH THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT. LYING BEHIND THIS WAS THE CONVICTION THAT THERE IS A DISTINCT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ZAIRE'S SUPPORT OF SAVIMBI AND PEACE IN SHABA. ALTHOUGH DURING THE MC HENRY/JUNIOR MEETING IN LUANDA, WE AGREED TO DISAGREE WITH THE ANGOLANS ON CUBANS AND ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE WAS ACHIEVED, VIZ., THE ANGOLANS SHOWED AN EAGERNESS TO BE HELPFUL IN THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION AND IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE.

B) WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE DIRECTION EVENTS ARE CURRENTLY TAKING IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND INTERNALLY IN ZAIRE. IN PARTICULAR WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENTS MOBUTU AND NETO HAVE TAKEN A STATESMANLIKE AND COURAGEOUS STEP IN THE BRAZZAVILLE AGREEMENT OF JULY 22, AND WE HOPE THE OAU WILL GIVE THE BRAZZAVILLE AGREEMENT FULL SUPPORT. THIS SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD REMOVING SEVERAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE DIVIDED THEM AND MADE THE BORDER BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES INSECURE AND HAVE WEAKENED THEIR ECONOMIES.

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C) DESPITE THIS PROGRESS, THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION IS NOT NECESSARILY SELF-SUSTAINING IN AND OF ITSELF, AND WE WOULD ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THE SAME POSITIVE, PATIENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE WHICH HAS LED TO THE BRAZZAVILLE ACCORDS. WE OURSELVES ARE VERY CONCERNED TO SEE THAT THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS SUCCEED, AND ARE OPEN TO THEIR SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL ALTHOUGH IT IS A PROBLEM WHICH THEY THEMSELVES MUST ULTIMATELY LAY TO REST.

D) WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION THE MINISTER MIGHT DEVELOP IN REGARD TO NEXT STEPS. IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BORDER CONTROL COMMISSION: WHICH STATES WILL COMPRISE IT, WHEN IT MIGHT BEGIN FUNCTIONING, HOW THE ANGOLANS AND ZAIRIANS VIEW ITS ROLE, AND WHAT IMPLICATIONS THEY SEE IN AN EFFECTIVELY FUNCTIONING VERIFICATION COMMISSION FOR THE EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO LOGISTICAL OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO THE BORDER COMMISSION, IF ASKED AND IF REQUIRED, AND WOULD HOPE THAT BELGIUM AND OTHERS WOULD ALSO BE FORTHCOMING IN THIS REGARD.

E) THE ZAMBIAN BORDER SITUATION. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL WERE ZAMBIA IN SOME WAY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE AGREEMENT SO THAT THE VERIFICATION COMMISSION, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT ALSO LOOK

TO THE SECURITY OF THE ZAMBIAN BORDERS WITH ZAIRE AND ANGOLA AS WELL. MOBUTU'S VIEW ON THIS WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTING TO KNOW.

F) WE VIEW THE RE-OPENING OF THE BENGUELA RAILWAY AS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP, AND ALL CONCERNED NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED TO PERSIST IN THIS COMMON OBJECTIVE. WE NOTE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME MOBUTU HAS SAID THAT HE

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WANTS IT RE-OPENED. INITIALLY, HE IS LIKELY TO USE IT TO EXPORT THE MANGANESE AT KISENGE WHICH IS TOO BULKY TO GO OUT THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA AND PRODUCING NO INCOME SITTING IN KISENGE. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW HOW MOBUTU INTENDS TO APPROACH THE QUESTION OF OBTAINING SAVIMBI'S AGREEMENT TO LET THE RAILWAY RE-OPEN AND REMAIN IN OPERATION.

4. ZAIRIAN COMMITMENT TO REFORM.

A) WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT MOBUTU APPEARS TO BE MOVING FASTER THAN PERHAPS ANTICIPATED ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE REFORM SCENARIO.

B) HE ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 24 THAT HIS AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR DISSIDENTS ABROAD WILL BE APPLIED ALSO TO MOST POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD INSIDE ZAIRE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA KARL-I-BOND HAS BEEN RELEASED.

C) CURBS HE HAS IMPOSED ON THE ZAIRIAN MILITARY, POLICE, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MAY HELP TO PREVENT SOME OF THE MORE FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS SUCH AS PILLAGING, ROBBING AND BEATING CIVILIANS IN THE SHABA AREA.

D) ALTHOUGH SHABA REMAINS UNDER MILITARY RULE, MOBUTU HAS ENDED THE STATE OF EMERGENCY THERE, AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT IN THE INTEREST OF INTERNAL RECONCILIATION, SHABA MIGHT BE RETURNED TO CIVILIAN CONTROL VERY SOON.

E) WE UNDERSTAND THE THREE-MONTH FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUDGET REQUESTED AT THE BRUSSELS MEETING IS NEARLY READY.

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F) HOWEVER, WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT THERE BE NO RELAXING OF THE GOZ'S COMMITMENT TO REFORM, AS MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.

G) IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT FURTHER ACTION ON REFORMS MOBUTU FORESEES, AND TO IMPRESS ON HIM THAT OUR JOINT COMMITMENT TO FUNDAMENTAL REFORM HAS NOT ABAT-

ED.

H) IN PARTICULAR, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ZAIRE AND THE IMF AGREE ON A NEW STABILIZATION PROGRAM AND THAT SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REFORMS BE INITIATED BEFORE THE OCTOBER MEETING ON ZAIRE IN BRUSSELS.

5. PAN AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA.

A) ALTHOUGH THE AFRICAN TROOPS IN SHABA APPEAR TO BE PERFORMING THEIR TASK EFFECTIVELY, WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE WHERE THE MATTER OF THEIR ONGOING RE-SUPPLY STANDS.

B) WE HAD EXPECTED THE FRENCH TO ASSUME A KEY ROLE AS COORDINATOR FOR THE FORCE'S REQUIREMENTS. WE HAD TOLD THE FRENCH AT PARIS THAT WE COULD NOT JOIN THEIR PROPOSED FIVE-POWER STANDING GROUP ON THE PAN AFRICAN FORCE. WE DID OFFER HOWEVER TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT AND RE-SUPPLY ONCE FRANCE HAD IDENTIFIED AND AGGREGATED THE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS.

C) MEANWHILE THE MOROCCANS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS ARE BEGINNING TO BRING TO US DIRECTLY THEIR CONCERNS ON THE QUESTION OF FUTURE PROVISIONING OF THE AFRICAN FORCE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE192131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WLSWING:LA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0350
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978075/aaaaaegl.tel
Line Count: 208
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a3e1f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1978363
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIMONET VISIT TO ZAIRE
TAGS: PINT, ECON, CG, BE
To: OUAGADOUGOU BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a3e1f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014